

MINUTES

June 2, 2005

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors met on June 2, 2005 in the Loblolly Conference Room at the Southern Pines Convention Center, Calloway Gardens, GA.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

E. Charles Vickery, PE - Chairman
Richard K. Little, PE
Guy F. Ritter, PE
John H. Sweitzer, PE
Theodore W. Waddle, LS, PE
William W. Dean, PE
Doris I. Willmer, PE
Gloria B. Ransom, Ph.D., Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mark E. Chastain, LS

STAFF PRESENT:

J. Darren Mickler – Board Executive Director
Julie Busbee – Board Secretary

ATTORNEY GENERAL REPRESENTATIVE:

Patricia Downing

GUESTS PRESENT:

Hardwick Butler, representing Surveying and Mapping Society of Georgia (SAMSOG)
Rick Toole, PE
Mike Fletcher, PE
Ben Cox, PE
Bill Jorden, PE
Nancy Manley, PE
Betty Jean Jordan, PE

Call to order:

Chairman Vickery called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and presented a proposed agenda. Mr. Ritter moved to adopt agenda as presented. Mr. Waddle seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Vickery asked for any additions or deletions to the minutes of the May 17, 2005 Board Meeting. Chairman Vickery asked to change the language in the last paragraph to read, “Chairman Vickery stated that he would attempt to end meetings by 3:00...” Ms. Willmer moved to adopt the minutes as amended. Mr. Little seconded. Motion carried.

Professional Societies and Guests

Chairman Vickery recognized the guests present: Hardwick Butler, representing Surveying and Mapping Society of Georgia (SAMSOG), Rick Toole, PE, Mike Fletcher, PE, Ben Cox, PE, Bill Jorden, PE, Nancy Manley, PE, and Betty Jean Jordan, PE.

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Mickler reported that June 1 was the deadline for exam applications; therefore, the staff would be busy in the next few months with exam application reviews. Grades from the April exam are expected soon.

There was a brief discussion regarding veteran’s preference points.

Old Business:

Professional Engineer Application:

Ms. Willmer reported that she is making final edits to the Professional Engineer Application. She stated that she is hopeful to get the application laid out for publishing on the website by the end of the month.

2006 NCEES Southern Zone Meeting

Mr. Dean led discussion on the plans for the 2006 NCEES Southern Zone Meeting to be held in Savannah May 4-6, 2006. He stated that he had discussed with the Executive Director of the North Carolina Board about their preparations for the 2003 Southern Zone Meeting. Mr. Dean moved to hold one of the fall Board meetings in Savannah to allow the Board members to plan the 2006 Southern Zone Meeting, meet with the Conference Center’s Event Planner and “dry-run” the events and tours that will be planned. Mr. Little seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Little asked for an opinion of the Attorney General’s office on what financial contributions may be accepted toward this project. Chairman Vickery directed Mr. Mickler to get budget figures from NCEES.

Mr. Sweitzer moved to direct Chairman Vickery to write an invitation letter to ex-members of the Board to ask for volunteer participation. Mr. Little seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Dean will ask Georgia Society of Professional Engineers (GSPE), American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and Surveying and Mapping Society of Georgia (SAMSOG) for volunteer participation.

Task Force Assignment Reports:

Mr. Mickler reported that he spoke to a small crowd at the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) at Robins Air Force Base on May 25, 2005.

Mr. Mickler presented a report of the applications that have been reviewed. Mr. Dean suggested a breakdown of whether the application was reviewed under 43-15-9.1, 43-15-9.2, 43-15-9.3 or 43-15-9.4. Ms. Willmer requested to receive an average length of time for review, carving out those reviewed under 43-15-9.1 from the others.

Memo of Agreement with

Ms. Willmer presented a Memo of Agreement with Environmental Protection Division (EPD) that has been signed by both parties and is now official. She stated that the intent of the memo was to remind both the Board and the EPD of their respective responsibilities.

Commercial Building Inspections:

Mr. Little presented a recommended the following Board policy for providing property condition assessments:

Providing property conditions assessments (PCA), inspection reports or any other reports concerning the conditions, adequacy, safe or unsafe conditions, compliance with plans and/or codes of any commercial structure valued more than \$100,000 for a client is considered by this board the practice of engineering as defined in Georgia law section 43-15-2 and persons not registered as professional engineers in the state of Georgia shall be prohibited from performing or offering to perform such services.

Mr. Sweitzer moved to adopt this Board policy as Board Policy 05-01. Mr. Ritter seconded. Mr. Dean moved for a friendly amendment to remove the phrase “valued more than \$100,000.” Mr. Ritter seconded. Motion carried as amended.

New Business:

“Structural Engineer” Designation in Georgia:

Mr. Ritter introduced Mike Fletcher, President of Structural Engineers Association of Georgia, who presented the case for a separate Structural Engineer registration in Georgia. He indicated that there is a lot of national support for this, with many states designating Structural Engineers separately from Professional Engineers. He stated that there is a great need for it because of seismic and wind events that occur in Georgia.

Mr. Ritter commented that the Georgia Board does evaluate structural engineer comity applicants by requiring them to have at least five years of structural experience after being licensed if they have taken a different discipline exam.

Mr. Sweitzer posed several questions for the Board to consider:

- Does NCEES recognize a separate designation?
- How is a Structural Engineer defined?
- Is it really a problem?
- Are there any Professional Engineers practicing outside their area of competence?

Mr. Dean discussed education requirements for Georgia Professional Engineers.

Coalition Report:

Ms. Willmer introduced Bill Jorden, Chairman of the Coalition. Mr. Jorden reported that the Coalition is identifying the problems with and limitation of the Board:

- Lack of staff, which leads to inability to review applications in a timely manner
- Lack of review of Continuing Education requirements
- Lack of timely response on complaints
- Concern over the veto of House Bill 444, which would have required a bachelor's degree for both Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor candidates, and the possibility of new legislation that may blur the lines of defining what Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors are allowed to do.

Mr. Dean requested that Chairman Vickery direct Mr. Mickler to determine how many positions will be funded for attendance at the 2005 National NCEES conference in Memphis.

Executive Session:

At 11:25 am, Mr. Little moved for the Board to enter into Executive Session to deliberate on applications and enforcement matters and to receive information on complaints and investigative reports. Ms. Willmer seconded. Motion carried.

The following Board members were present during Executive Session – Chairman Vickery, Mr. Sweitzer, Mr. Little, Mr. Ritter, Dr. Ransom, Mr. Waddle, Ms. Willmer and Mr. Dean.

Reconvened Open Session at 1:00 pm with the following Board members present - **Chairman Vickery, Mr. Sweitzer, Mr. Little, Mr. Ritter, Dr. Ransom, Mr. Waddle, Ms. Willmer and Mr. Dean.**

Investigations and Complaints:

Mr. Dean moved to accept a signed Consent Order for Reinstatement with Public Reprimand from Andrew Bishop, PE023391, who paid a \$1000 fine. Mr. Little seconded. Motion carried.

PELS050077 – This case involved allegations of substandard work by a Professional Engineer. Mr. Ritter moved to close this case with a private Letter of Concern sent to the respondent cautioning to be more responsible in communication with the client. Mr. Little seconded. Motion carried.

Board Memo Comity Model Law Applicants:

Applicants for registration as Professional Engineers by comity, who have an ABET engineering degree, who have taken and passed an 8-hour fundamentals of engineering (EIT/FE) exam, who have a minimum of 48 months post graduation engineering experience as determined by a staff evaluation using the present Board guidelines, who have taken and passed an 8-hour principles and practice of engineering exam (PE Exam taken at least 4 years after BS degree), and who comply in every way with the provisions of the appropriate law are as follows:

30339 Durig, Bryan R.
30362 Snyder, John K.

30360 Beighle, Trent E.
30363 Natali, Michael C.

30361 Graney, Patrick R.
30364 Carvajal, Fernando

Motion was made by Mr. Dean to approve these applicants for PE registration by comity @ 43-15-16(a), via 43-15-8(1) and 43-15-9(1). The motion was seconded by Mr. Little. The motion carried.

Anowar, Mohammed M.
Browne, Arlene E.
Cronin, Gerald Robert
Dodson, April Yvette
Fowler, Martha Allison
Higdon, Wesley Devon
MacGregor, Laura C.
McIntyre, Lloyd James
Moretto, John Aaron
Schafrick, Ingrid Christine
Swan, Stephen Robert
Wood, Judson Tyler

Barros, Bruno C.
Bumey, Arnette
Crum, Samuel Thomas
Edmondson II, Lewis C.
Harden, Patrick Allen
Karp, Christopher Andrew
Mackert, Jerod Paul
McQueen, Charles M.
Saintil, Jr., Edwidge A.
Seabolt-Fox, Tara Lea
Thompson, Michael A.
Wooten, Matthew Thomas

Bascom, Jerry Michael
Cooper, Bruce
Davis, Renard Adam
Erel, David
Hayes, Michael Christopher
Leslie, Thomas Henry
Mallari, Rommel D.
Mercer, Matthew Ryan
Sampson, Brichael Girard
Sedwick, Brandon Dean
Whitmer, Brian Eugene
Wright, Andre Jamal

Motion was made by Mr. Dean to approve these applicants for EIT certification @ 43-15-8(1) or 43-15-8(2). The motion was seconded by Dr. Ransom. The motion carried.

Reinstatements:

Ms. Willmer moved to reinstate the following James W. Heller, Jr., PE019249. Mr. Ritter seconded. Motion carried.

There being no further business, at 1:15 pm, Mr. Ritter moved to adjourn. Mr. Little seconded. Motion carried. Some Board members remained to review applications until they were finished.

Board Chairman

Division Director

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